

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

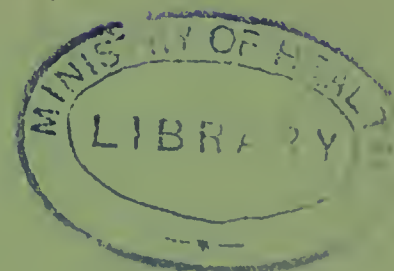
OF

ABERAERON
CARDIGANSHIRE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1954



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I. Morgan Watkin, Ph.D. (Lond.), M.Sc., M.B.,
B.Ch., D.P.H. (Wales).

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Dyfrig O. Davies, Cert. S.I.B.



Aberaeron Rural District Council

Chairman
1953/54
Councillor D. Emrys Evans

Chairman
1954/55
Councillor Brinley J. Jones

Committees dealing with public health matters

(a) Housing Committee

Chairman
1953/54
Councillor Brinley J. Jones

Chairman
1954/55
Councillor Capt. E.O. Evans, M.B.E.
Councillor Mrs. E. Hughes

(b) Water and Sewerage Committee

Chairman
1953/54
Councillor D. Emrys Evans

Chairman
1954/55
Councillor D. J. Davies

Clerk of the Council: S. G. D. Evans, Esq.,
Council Offices,
1, North Road,
Aberaeron.

Telephone Number - Aberaeron 327.



To the Chairman and Members of the
Aberaeron Rural District Council.

PREFACE

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

An examination of the ensuing pages will show that the health of the inhabitants continues to give cause for satisfaction. Although afflicted with minor ailments, in common with other parts of the country, the Rural District has not been subjected to any outbreak of serious infectious disease.

The number of registered deaths increased slightly from 135 in 1953 to 143 in 1954. This latter figure is still 16 fewer than in 1951. The principal causes of death remain the same as for the United Kingdom generally. Heart disease accounted for 52 deaths, cancer in its various forms for 24 deaths whilst vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes) claimed 20 victims.

The number of registered live births was 135 - an increase of 4 over the previous year. Six of these were illegitimate as compared with eleven in 1953. Six still births were registered - five more than in 1953. No mother died as a result of childbirth.

Only seven infectious diseases were registered during the year. Two elderly persons in the Synod Inn area contracted dysentery. Prior to the illness they had received visitors from outside the area who were suffering from diarrhoea. It is probable, therefore, that the infection was acquired from the visitors. No further cases occurred in the area and all the bacteriological examinations of articles of food and of contacts proved negative.



Two fewer cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1954 than in 1953. The result of the mass radiography survey is given in detail later in the Report.

The Council commenced work on the Ffynnon Rhyŷ water scheme which is to supply parts of the district where the need is great.

Once the needs of the inhabitants for water has been adequately met, the Council will turn its attention towards the provision of sewerage schemes, many of which are already in the blueprint stage.

The grossly overcrowded conditions under which members of the Council hold their meetings at Aberaeron and Lampeter cannot escape comment. In its present state the meeting places can best be described as miniature "Black Holes of Calcutta". If the room used at Aberaeron for the Council meeting were one coming under the control of the Factories Act, the maximum number of persons allowed to use the room would be eight. The average number of members, officers and press representatives at each meeting is thirty five. No wonder that many of those who attend suffer regularly from headaches and smarting eyes - the result of insufficient ventilation and gross overcrowding. The Council should make a further approach to the Minister to authorise the erection of a proper Council chamber at the Council offices. As a sanitary authority the Council is expected to enforce provisions for the proper ventilation of premises. It is only logical, therefore, that it should start by putting its own house in order.

A more detailed account of the department's work will be found in the ensuing pages.

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SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	99,321
Population (Census 1951).	9,497
Population (Registrar General's Mid-Year 1953)... ..	9,346
Population (Registrar General's Mid-Year 1954)... ..	9,380
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1954	£18,092
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1955	£18,540
Sum represented by a penny rate 1953/54	£71

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births Leg:	135	72	63
Illeg:	6	3	3
Number of registered still births Leg:	6	4	2
Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year Leg:	5	3	2
Illeg:	1	1	-
Number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks ... Leg:	3	3	-
Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth	Nil		
Number of registered deaths	143	69	74
Areal comparability factor for births	1.18		
Areal comparability factor for deaths	0.77		

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CERTAIN DISEASES

Registrar General's		Number of deaths		
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	-	1
2	Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough.....	1	-	1
6	Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8	Measles.....	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases..	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	4	3	7
11	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus.....	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms...	9	7	16
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16	Diabetes.....	-	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	10	10	20
18	Coronary disease, angina.....	12	7	19
19	Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	1	1
20	Other heart disease.....	13	19	32
21	Other circulatory disease.....	1	2	3
22	Influenza.....	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia.....	1	5	6
24	Bronchitis.....	3	4	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system....	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	2	2	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	3	-	3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations.....	-	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	5	7	12
33	Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34	All other accidents.....	1	1	2
35	Suicide.....	1	-	1
36	Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
Total		69	74	143



General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

These are essentially the same as in 1953. They are as follows:-

- (a) No ante-natal or post-natal clinic is held in the area. Expectant mothers receive advice from their own medical practitioners.
 - (b) Infant welfare clinics are held fortnightly at Aberaeron, Lampeter and New Quay.
 - (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by the district nurses who are also State Registered Nurses.
 - (d) The health visitors who cover the area are stationed at Cross Inn, Lampeter, Llandyssul and New Quay.
 - (e) The area is covered by district nurses stationed at Aberayron, Cross Inn, Lampeter (2), Llanarth, Llanrhystyd, Llanwenog, Felinfach, New Quay and Pennant.
 - (f) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own medical attendant but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by medical officers of the local health authority.
 - (g) No ambulance is stationed in the area of the local authority. The Rural District is served by ambulances stationed at Lampeter and New Quay and Aberystwyth.
 - (h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist in periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority.
- Care and after care is in the hands of the health visitor and the district nurse. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physician's health visitor.
- (i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally.
 - (j) The town of Aberystwyth is the centre upon which the principal general hospital, the infectious diseases' hospital, the maternity home and the Medical Research Council's Area Public Health Laboratory are based.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of the notifications of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, received during the year.

Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary) ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Food poisoning ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influenzal).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polionyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Relapsing fever .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smallpox...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Typhoid fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping cough ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

The puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954, were laid before Parliament and their contents communicated by the Health Department to all registered medical practitioners practising in the Rural District.



TUBERCULOSIS

Six new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The sex and age distribution are as follows:-

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	1	-
15 - 19	1	1	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 29	1	1	-	1
30 - 34	-	-	-	-
35 - 39	-	-	-	-
40 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 49	-	-	-	-
50 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 59	-	-	-	-
60 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	1	1

No action was taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The mass radiography unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited Aberaeron and Lampeter where numerous residents and secondary schoolchildren from the Aberaeron R.D.C. attended. The figures for the Borough of Lampeter and the Urban District of Aberaeron cannot be separated from those of the Aberaeron R.D.C. but the totals are, nevertheless, of general interest.



ABERAERON

No. examined..... 568
 No. found suffering from
 pulmonary tuberculosis..... Nil
 No. found abnormal in other ways = 29

DETAILS OF OTHER ABNORMALITIES

Requiring further observation	= 6
Bony abnormality	= 9
Bronchitis and emphysema	= 2
Pneumoconiosis	= 1
Basal fibrosis	= 1
Thickened pleura	= 2
Acquired heart disease	= 1
Healed primary tuberculosis	= 5
Healed post-primary tuberculosis	= <u>2</u>
Total	= <u>23</u>

LAMPETER

No. examined..... 741
 No. found suffering from
 pulmonary tuberculosis..... 1
 No. found abnormal in other ways... 36

DETAILS OF OTHER ABNORMALITIES

Requiring further observation	= 7
Bony abnormality	= 7
Bronchitis and emphysema	= 7
Bronchiectasis	= 1
Pneumoconiosis	= 1
Basal fibrosis	= 2
Healed primary tuberculosis	= 5
Healed post-primary tuberculosis	= 5
Retro-sternal thyroid	= <u>1</u>
Total	= <u>36</u>

National Assistance Act, 1948, and
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Only in one case was it necessary to apply to a magistrate for an order under the above enactments. The case was that of a lady from Llanon in her late eighties. It was brought to my attention by the District Welfare Officer and by the lady's own doctor. The old lady lived alone and, although she had a niece living close by, she refused to allow her to care for her. The old lady suffered from delusions, for she would not eat or drink anything which had been touched by her relatives. She alleged that by so doing they were poisoning her. She would throw away the water brought to her and go out of the house after midnight to fetch fresh water from a standpipe. She refused to stay in bed when ill and insisted upon sitting up in front of a fire made only of paper. This meant that the fire was constantly relit and, in view of her physical infirmity, the danger of her catching fire could not be overlooked. Persuasion by the relatives, her own doctor, the district welfare officer, the lady magistrate and myself all failed to make her agree to have somebody in the house to look after her. In the circumstances it was reluctantly decided to have her removed to a Welfare Home where she died some time later.

The magistrate granted the order for a period not exceeding three weeks and no renewal was applied for.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

In accordance with World Health Regulations No. 2, a number of international vaccination certificates of persons residing in the R.D.C. and proceeding to certain destinations overseas were authenticated in the prescribed manner.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year is appended as a separate item.

I. MORGAN WATKIN

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Cardiganshire Joint District Councils,
Swyddfa'r Sir,
ABERYSTWYTH.

July, 1955.



I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

During 1954 fourteen applications were granted for conversions from the conservancy to the water carriage system.

The acquiring of a Cesspool Emptyer by the Council in 1954 was a progressive step for which they are to be highly commended. The urgency for the provision of such a vehicle had become acute due to the ever-increasing sewage disposal plants which had to be maintained. Work which formerly was disagreeable and difficult could henceforward be dealt with expeditiously with the least discomfort.

Between June and December of 1954 the Emptyer was engaged in work at Council Housing Estates and private properties which involved the removal and disposal of approximately 35,000 gallons of sludge. The total receipts in respect of private properties for this period was £80. 15. 0.

The scheme is working quite satisfactorily although the aim should be the collection of rubbish once weekly at all premises which are reasonably accessible.

The Council's lorry is not of the type which is suitable for the collection of refuse and should be replaced by a properly designed vehicle.

The summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator is as follows:-

[illegible]



4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of inspections of dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	68
Number of inspections of milk rooms	...	...	...	...	14
Number of inspections of milk vehicles	...	...	...	...	18
Number of inspections of meat shops	...	...	...	...	24
Number of inspections of restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	16
Number of inspections of places where ice cream is sold	...	...	...	...	27
Number of houses visited upon notification of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	8
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	6

Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	22
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	22
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	Nil

5. HOUSING

(i) Inspection of dwelling houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	22
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(ii) Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	22
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(iii) Action under Statutory Powers

No proceedings were taken during 1954.

(iv) Estimated Number of dwellings which in normal times would be condemned

...	60
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(v) Housing Acts, 1949 and 1954 - Improvement Grants.

Five applications were received in 1954 for Improvement Grants under the relevant sections of the above-mentioned Acts which are administered by the County Council.

Grants were authorised in each case, particulars being as follows:-

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>House where improvement carried out</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Grant Authorised</u>
(1) Mr. R. E. Emms, Villa Frongoch, Treddol, Machynlleth.	Forest Hall, Llangybi, Lampeter.	£549. 5. 4.	£274. 12. 8.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>House where improvement carried out</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Grant Authorised</u>
(2) Mr. R. Jones, Porthmawr, Llanon.	Porthmawr, Llanon.	£785. 0. 0.	£392. 10. 0.
Mr. T. Bayton, Derlwyn, Chapel Street, Llanarth.	Derlwyn, Chapel Street, Llanarth.	£833. 14. 0.	£400. 0. 0.
(3) Mr. J. Jones, N.P. Bank House, Crickhowell, Brecks.	Crogal, New Quay.	£851. 0. 0.	£400. 0. 0.
(4) Mr. J. and Mrs. L. Evans, Brynawel, Cellan.	Tymawr, Cellan.	£1122. 0. 0.	£400. 0. 0.

Twenty-four houses were completed by the Council during the year and twenty-two were under construction on 31st December, 1954.

Four houses were erected by private enterprise during the year and six were under construction on 31st December, 1954.

6. Water Supply

A start was made on the Ffynnonrhys Water Supply Scheme in 1954 with every prospect of a commencement early in 1955 on the Plwmp and Synod Inn Scheme.

Applications for connecting premises to Council mains which were granted totalled ninety-six and eighty-four were connected.

Two hundred and forty samples were taken from private and mains supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination. The result of the reports are shown overleaf.

Regular inspections were carried out at the various sources and remedial measures taken where necessary.

REPORTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME	HIGHLY SATISFACTORY	SATISFACTORY	SLIGHT SURFACE CONTAMINATION	HEAVY SURFACE CONTAMINATION	UNSATISFACTORY
Bwlchcastell, Gilcennin	14	-	-	-	-
Cellan	7	-	-	-	-
Cross Inn, Llanon	4	1	-	-	-
Nantmeddal, Llanarth	7	-	-	-	-
Llanfair Glydogau	4	-	-	-	-
Llangybi	7	-	-	-	-
Llanwnen	2	1	3	-	1
Trefilan	4	-	-	-	-
Ffynnonoer	6	-	-	-	-
Talgarreg	4	-	1	-	1
Cwmsychpant	4	-	-	-	1
Ciliau Aeron	5	-	-	-	1
Dihewid	5	-	-	-	2
Mydroilyn	3	-	2	-	-
Llanon	9	-	1	-	1
Cribyn	5	-	-	-	-
Ffynnonberw	9	-	-	-	-
Llanfair Road	5	-	-	-	-
Cwrtnewydd	5	-	-	-	-
Pisgah	4	-	-	-	-
Alltyblacca	5	-	-	-	-

7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Meat Inspection

Meat rationing came to an end on 1st July, 1954, and private slaughtering with the inspection of meat which it entailed was reintroduced after having been in abeyance for a period of fourteen years.

Two licences for private slaughtering were granted by the Council.

The animals slaughtered and inspected at the slaughter-houses during July-December, 1954, were as follows:-



	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of animals killed	57	2	717	26	802

Diseases except
Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Carcasses of which some
part or organ was
condemned

7 - 9 - 71 lbs.

Percentage of the number
inspected affected with
disease other than T.B.

12.28 - 1.25 -

Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
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Carcasses of which some part
or organ was condemned

- - - - -

(ii) Food Inspection

Meat and Meat Products condemned (outside slaughterhouses)	207 lbs.
Canned Meat	3 lbs.
Canned and miscellaneous foods other than meat	88 lbs.
Total	298 lbs.

(iii) Twenty-seven inspections were made of premises where ice cream is sold.
Six samples of ice cream were taken and found to be satisfactory.

(iv) Sixteen inspections of restaurants and kitchens were made.

(v) There are four milk distributors' dairies in the district. Eight
milk samples were submitted for test and found to be satisfactory.

DYFRIG O. DAVIES, Cert. S.I.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
1, North Road,
ABERAERON.
Cardiganshire.

